



The Planning Post

The Newsletter of the City of Bloomington Planning Department



City of Bloomington Planning Department

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Neighborhood Update

As part of the City's 2008 budget, the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND) was allocated \$250,000 for projects that were identified in the four neighborhood plans completed since 2000. Currently, Planning Department and HAND staff are working on the following projects:

Broadview: Installation of solar lights in Broadview Park.

Green Acres: Sidewalk installation on E. 5th Street.

McDoel Gardens: A streetscape design for Rogers Street.

Prospect Hill: Installation of historic acorn-style lighting in the neighborhood.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

03/17/08: Plan Commission

03/26/08: MPO Citizens Advisory

03/27/08: Board of Zoning Appeals

04/14/08: Plan Commission

04/23/08: MPO Citizens Advisory

04/24/08: Board of Zoning Appeals

04/25/08: MPO Technical Advisory

05/09/08: MPO Policy



Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update

According to the 2000 US Census, 14.5% of Bloomington residents reported that their primary mode of transportation for commuting to work was walking, while 2.7% said their primary mode was bicycling. Even though these percentages are higher than the average town in Indiana, the Planning Department is working hard to increase bicycling and walking in Bloomington. Improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Bloomington can ultimately reduce traffic congestion, help the environment, improve the health of our residents and enhance the great quality of life that Bloomington residents enjoy.

In an effort to further strengthen pedestrian and bicycle transportation, the City has been working to update its Alternative Transportation and Greenways System Plan. Originally adopted in 2001, the Plan provides a long-term vision for Bloomington's bicycle and pedestrian transportation system and focuses on strategies to implement bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the community. The Plan is designed to provide a long-term vision for Bloomington's bicycle and pedestrian transportation network, as well as act as a guide for public and private investment decisions for many years to come.

The revision process has focused on updating the maps of the facility network, prioritizing future projects and identifying ways to promote bicycle and pedestrian transportation. In addition to these updates, the revised Plan includes some innovative ideas for improving bicycle and pedestrian transportation. For example, a bicycle boulevard program is identified in the revised Plan, along with a map of appropriate locations. Bicycle boulevards are defined as a combination of both on-street (e.g. bike routes, bike lanes and sharrows) and off-street (e.g. multiuse paths and trails) facilities where modifications are made to improve bicycle safety, convenience, and connectivity. Bicycle transportation is enhanced through the use of various engineering and regulatory tools, such as pavement markings, traffic

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Rose-Hulman Studies

The City of Bloomington Planning Department is working with Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior engineering students on design ideas for two locations within the city. The projects are academic studies designed to provide the students with real world problems and allow them to formulate realistic recommendations. The work done by the students will serve as a starting point for future community discussion about the project areas.

Dunn Street Modernization Study

This study focuses on the Indiana Avenue and Dunn Street corridors and will result in the development of several feasible design alternatives for a new railroad crossing at the Dunn Street terminus and the Indiana Rail Road mainline tracks. The students are tasked to produce a complex design solution that can address the mobility needs of pedestrians, bicycles, public transit service and rail freight. The students are working closely with the Planning Department, Indiana University, Indiana Rail Road and other parties in order to formulate their recommendations for the corridors.

Cascades Creek Streamside Restoration

The streamside restoration study will provide a realistic strategy for incorporating pedestrian and bicycle amenities alongside important streamside restoration using green engineering techniques. The students are developing a specific design proposal that addresses the complexities of the Cascades Park; the final recommendation must balance stream protection, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, vehicular traffic, as well as preservation of the park's unique historic features and passive and active park space. The students are working with the City Planning, Utilities, and Parks Departments, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to formulate their recommendations. Both the Cascades project and the Dunn Street project will be completed in May.



Rose-Hulman students inspect Cascades Creek.

Green Roofs are Growing



Green roof on Chicago's City Hall

Green roofs are expected to sprout up around Bloomington soon. What are green roofs and why are they growing in popularity?

Green roofs, also known as vegetated roofs, are roofs that are covered in soil and vegetation, sometimes completely covered and other times only partially covered.

Bloomington's Environmental Commission has been promoting the many benefits of green roofs for a number of years. In addition to providing a natural amenity for building users to enjoy, green roofs have been shown to reduce heating and cooling costs for a building, reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide needed wildlife habitat for plants, animals and insects.

A 2005 study by Brad Bass of the Adaptation & Impacts Research Group at the University of Toronto Centre for Environment showed that green roofs can even reduce a building's heat loss and energy consumption during the winter.

The green roof concept is growing in Bloomington. Partial green roofs are proposed for the Middle Way House at 318 S. Washington Street, the Village at 10th and College, and the Millennium Amenities Center at 1051 S. Adams Street.

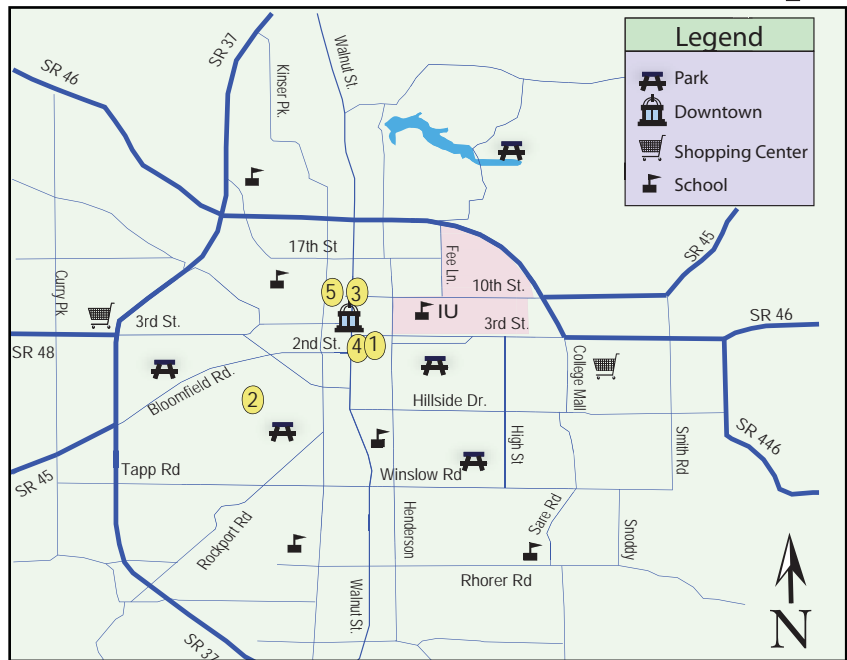
Construction Buzz

- 1 **Leonard's Linen Building**, 300 E. 3rd Street - A site plan was approved for a multi-tenant commercial re-use of this historic building.
- 2 **Millenium Amenities Center**, 1051 S. Adams Street - A plan was approved for a 9,000 square foot community center within the Adams Bend Apartment Complex. The building is proposed to have a green roof.
- 3 **Pavilion Properties**, 601 N. Walnut Street - A site plan was approved for a three-story mixed-use building on the northwest corner of E. 9th and N. Walnut Streets. The proposed building will have 6 apartments and 1700 sq. ft. non-residential space.
- 4 **Middle Way House**, 318 S. Washington Street - A site plan was approved for new construction and renovation of the Middle Way House social service. The building will have several "green" features, including a partial green roof.
- 5 **644 North Morton**, southeast corner of North Morton and 11th Street - The Plan Commission approved a site plan for a 6-unit multifamily residential structure.



Rendering of
N. Morton and 11th Street

Construction Buzz Location Map



Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation *(Cont. from page 1)*

calming, motor vehicle diversion, signage, and other methods of improving the safety, comfort, and efficiency of bicycling. Bicycle boulevards do not prohibit motor vehicle travel, but may limit access in some manner in order to provide a safer environment for bicyclists.

In an effort to obtain more community input on bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, the Planning Department conducted an informal outreach activity at the Monroe County Public Library and a public workshop at City Hall last fall. Both events gave City planners the opportunity to discuss the proposed revisions to the Alternative Transportation and Greenways System Plan with community members, receive comments on the Plan, and gain a better understanding of community concerns and priorities.

The updated draft Plan was presented to the City's Plan Commission for its consideration. The Plan was then forwarded to the Common Council for the final adoption decision. Since the Council amended the draft plan, it will go back to the Plan Commission in March for final adoption.

More information on Alternative Transportation Planning in Bloomington can be found at www.bloomington.in.gov/alternativetransportation.



Workshop participants review plans.

A Word from the Director

Planning Director Tom Micuda, AICP, answers a common question

Have you wondered what the letters “AICP” stand for when written after a City planner’s name? AICP stands for the American Institute of Certified Planners. The mission of the organization is to certify professionals in the field of urban planning and assist them in the areas of ethics, professional development, planning education, and standards of practice. Within the Planning Department, eight of our thirteen planners have those letters after their names, meaning they have achieved certification by the AICP.

In order to become certified as an AICP member, a planner must meet the minimum threshold of relevant education in the field and professional work experience. Once this has been attained, the planner must pass a rigorous examination that tests his or her skills and knowledge.

Similar to other professional fields, City planners must continue their education in order to maintain their AICP certification. Recently, the AICP Commission approved a new Certification Maintenance program. As a result, AICP certified planners must earn 32 credits of eligible professional education activities every two years. These credits include attendance at American Planning Association sponsored conferences and various web-based audio conferences.

I am proud of the fact that more than 60% of our planners have become certified as AICP members, demonstrating their expertise and dedication to the profession.



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